

2. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said nonwoven web comprises a spunbond web.
3. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said first area and said second area form a repeating pattern.
4. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 3, wherein said first area and said second area comprise alternating columns.
5. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 3, wherein said first area surrounds said second area, said second area comprising discrete shapes.
6. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 3, wherein said first area comprises alternating rows and alternating columns.
7. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 2, wherein said fibers comprise polypropylene fibers.
9. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said first basis weight and said second basis weight are from about 0.2 ounces per square yard to about 9 ounces per square yard.
10. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said polymeric fibers comprise crimped fibers.
11. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said first area comprises from about 40% to about 60% of said nonwoven web.
12. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said fibers comprise pulp fibers.
13. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said fibers comprise polymeric fibers.

14. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said nonwoven web comprises a meltblown web.

15. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said nonwoven web comprises an air laid web.

16. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 13, wherein said polymeric fibers comprise multicomponent fibers.

27. (Amended) A nonwoven web comprising extruded polymeric fibers, said nonwoven web having a first end and a second and opposite end, said nonwoven web defining first areas having a first basis weight and second areas having a second basis weight, said first and second areas being located on said web according to a predetermined pattern, said first basis weight being at least 1.5 times greater than said second basis weight, said first basis weight and said second basis weight ranging from about 0.2 ounces per square yard to about 9 ounces per square yard, the web being compressed and thermally bonded together.

28. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said first basis weight is at least 2 times greater than said second basis weight.

29. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said polymeric fibers contain a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyester, nylon, and combinations thereof.

30. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said polymeric fibers comprise polypropylene.

31. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said polymeric fibers are crimped.

32. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said first areas comprise from about 25% to about 75% of said nonwoven web.

33. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said first areas and said second areas are in alternating columns.

34. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said web comprises a meltblown web or a spunbond web.

35. (Amended) A laminate comprising:

a first layer comprising a substrate; and

a nonwoven web adhered to said substrate, said nonwoven web having a first end

and a second and opposite end, said nonwoven web comprising pulp fibers or polymeric fibers, said nonwoven web defining first areas having a first basis weight and second areas having a second basis weight located on said nonwoven web according to a predetermined pattern, said first basis weight being greater than said second basis weight, said first basis weight and said second basis weight ranging from about 0.2 ounces per square yard to about 9 ounces per square yard, the web being compressed and thermally bonded together.

36. (Not Amended) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said substrate comprises a meltblown web.

37. (Not Amended) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said fibers contained within said nonwoven web comprise polypropylene fibers, and wherein said first areas and said second areas form alternating columns.

38. (Not Amended) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said nonwoven web comprises a spunbond web.

39. (Not Amended) A laminate as defined in claim 38, further comprising a third layer comprising a nonwoven web, said nonwoven web comprising a spunbond web, said first layer being located in between said second layer and said third layer.

40. (Not Amended) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said substrate comprises a polymeric film.

41. (Not Amended) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said first layer comprises a nonwoven web.

42. (Not Amended) A diaper incorporating the laminate defined in claim 35.

43. (Not Amended) A wiper product incorporating the laminate defined in claim 35.

44. (Not Amended) A personal care product incorporating the laminate defined in claim 35.

45. (Not Amended) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said substrate comprises a meltblown web and said nonwoven web comprises a spunbond web.

46. (Not Amended) A laminate as defined in claim 45, wherein said fibers contained within said nonwoven web comprise bicomponent polymeric fibers.

47. (Not Amended) A laminate as defined in claim 46, wherein said bicomponent fibers are crimped.

48. (Not Amended) A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said first areas of said nonwoven web surround said second areas, said second areas forming discreet shapes.

49. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said first area extends in the machine direction of the web.

50. (Not Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein the first area extends in the cross machine direction of the web.

Please add the following new claims:

59. (New) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein the first area extends from the first end of the nonwoven web to the second end for providing strength across the web.

60. (New) A nonwoven web as defined as claim 27, wherein the first areas extend from the first end of the nonwoven web to the second end for providing strength across the web.

61. (New) A nonwoven web as defined as claim 35, wherein the first areas extend from the first end of the nonwoven web to the second end for providing strength across the web.

62. (New) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein the web is compressed and thermally bonded together by being through-air bonded and calendered.

63. (New) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein the web is thermally point bonded together.

64. (New) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 62, wherein the web is first calendered and then through-air bonded.

65. (New) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 62, wherein the web is through-air bonded and then calendered.

66. (New) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein the web is compressed and thermally bonded together by being through-air bonded and calendered.

67. (New) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein the web is thermally point bonded together.

68. (New) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 66, wherein the web is first calendered and then through-air bonded.

69. (New) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 66, wherein the web is through-air bonded and then calendered.

70. (New) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 35, wherein the web is compressed and thermally bonded together by being through-air bonded and calendered.

71. (New) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 35, wherein the web is thermally point bonded together.

72. (New) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 70, wherein the web is first calendered and then through-air bonded.

73. (New) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 70, wherein the web is through-air bonded and then calendered.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested in view of the amendments provided and the remarks set forth below.

Currently, claims 1 through 7, 9 through 16, 27 through 50, and 59 through 73 remain pending in the present application, including independent claims 1, 27, and 35.